

Core D Composition & Literature | Beowulf Annotation Guide

1. Protagonist: Beowulf as...

- Epic Hero
- Young Man
- Old Man

2. Descriptions of other major characters:

- Shield Sheafson
- Hrothgar
- Aeschere
- Grendel
- Grendel's Mother
- Dragon
- Unferth
- Ecgtheow
- Hygelac
- Hygd

3. Possible themes:

- Christianity vs. Germanic Paganism
- Loyalty to family, tribe, etc.
- Revenge
- Bravery / Courage
- Wealth / Riches vs. "Eternal Wealth"
- Epic vs. Elegy

4. Historic references – what do you learn about Scandinavian culture / history?

5. Biblical references – how do they add to the meaning of the story?

6. Pay attention to the various monsters – how are they represented throughout the text?

7. Literary Devices

- Kennings
- Epithets
- Alliteration
- Caesura
- Allusion
- Vernacular
- Foreshadowing